



Gosfield School

Prep School and Senior School



Prospectus



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
AGED 4 - 18,
WITH BOARDING
FOR SENIOR BOYS.

Where Children Come First



Gosfield School strives to provide a unique friendly and relaxed environment where pupils feel valued and are able to achieve personal excellence and excel in all aspects of life.

WELCOME TO GOSFIELD SCHOOL

We are delighted to have this opportunity to tell you about our school and what it is that makes it such a special place.

Gosfield School was founded in 1929 at Cut Hedge Park. The centre of learning then, as now, is a gracious Victorian country house situated in over 100 acres of parkland.

Over the years much has changed at Gosfield School. Today our country house provides excellent facilities for modern day education. One thing, however, has not changed; the belief that at Gosfield School children come first.

OUR PROSPECTUS

Placing your children in independent education and selecting the right school are both big decisions. We do hope that you will find our prospectus informative, stimulating and helpful toward making the right decision for your children. We welcome the opportunity to show you our school to see first hand why Gosfield School is such a special place.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

- Independent school for boys and girls aged 4-18, with boarding for Senior Boys.
- A magnificent setting in over 100 acres of parkland on the Essex/Suffolk borders.
- Small class sizes - maximum 20.
- A caring and secure environment supported by a team of experienced and well qualified staff.
- A rich and varied 6th Form environment that prepares our young people for their future lives.
- A programme of Scholarships.

Where Children Come First



GOSFIELD SCHOOL AIMS

Aiming for Excellence

To provide an environment within which all our pupils feel valued and able to achieve personal excellence in all aspects of life. We aim to do this by:

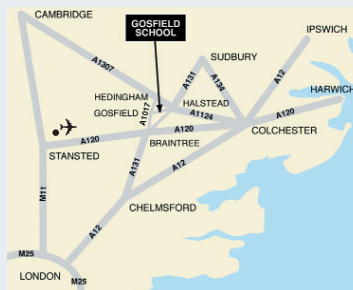
- delivering a curriculum, which meets the needs of all in a manner that stimulates, challenges, excites and encourages each pupil to question and enjoy the opportunities available to them.
- promoting physical fitness and creativity together with a positive attitude to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- developing self-confidence, self-esteem and personal responsibility, recognising the importance of human relationships based on understanding, tolerance and respect.

We value our community and seek to involve staff, pupils and parents in a positive and effective partnership through:

- the provision of a secure, caring and stimulating environment, which will develop positive attitudes and sound relationships both within the school and the wider community.
- social awareness, a concern and feeling for others and to promote professionalism, kindness, honesty and integrity.
- the provision of equality of opportunity for all students through diversity of learning and an extra curricular experience that widens their opportunities and awareness.
- the promotion of a strong partnership between the home and school.
- recognising and celebrating personal and collective success.



We look forward to welcoming you to Gosfield School soon



Gosfield School
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Website: www.gosfieldschool.org.uk

Email: info@gosfieldschool.org.uk



Gosfield School



Welcome to Gosfield School

We do hope that you find the contents of this prospectus informative, and that it enables you to see how Gosfield can offer a rich and varied environment within which your children will flourish.

Mr Turner our first Headmaster founded Gosfield School in 1929. The School is now a charity and still occupies the same magnificent Victorian country house situated in over 100 acres of parkland. The estate is bordered by ancient woodland and visitors are overwhelmed by the wildlife living within our boundaries. The grounds are a superb setting for nature trails and for a variety of outdoor projects and activities. Students are able to enjoy these grounds and benefit considerably from leisure areas which promote a culture of well being and security.

Our young people are a credit to the school, they are polite and well mannered. Our expectations of the students are high and they aspire to meet the standards set.

We feel that our young people must be happy and secure in their learning; Gosfield School offers that and much more. Our caring and dedicated staff know the students well and work with them to ensure they progress effectively both academically and socially. In our care students develop confidence and respect for both their peers and adults. They enjoy the challenges offered and the opportunities to stretch themselves in a variety of directions.

Gosfield has a long tradition of providing a small and caring environment enabling your children to achieve their very best. We really do believe that at Gosfield School 'Children Come First'.

We do hope you enjoy reading our prospectus and we would be delighted to welcome you to our school so that you can see exactly why we feel Gosfield School is such a special place.

Claire Goodchild
Principal

Admissions Policy

Gosfield School admits children for whom we are able to offer the opportunity to excel and achieve their very best in all aspects of their development.

The maximum entry into each year group is twenty. Under exceptional circumstances this may be increased to 21. Students are admitted to the school subject to their position on a waiting list. Siblings are currently given priority.

We encourage you to visit the school and take advantage of the opportunity to see the facilities available and experience first hand our young people at work and play.

All prospective students will be required to visit us for a full trial day.

The Trial Day

This allows young people the opportunity to become involved with the daily activities of the school and to see if they enjoy the opportunities offered.

For prospective parents, you will be able to establish if your children will be secure, happy and well challenged in the Gosfield environment.

For the school, it provides the opportunity to ensure that a student will fit in socially and academically. It also provides us with the opportunity to assess them in core areas and to ensure they are meeting National expectations or above in these areas.

During the day the children will be assessed informally in the core subjects of English and Maths. These assessments will allow us to identify their current academic standards and whether or not we will be able to cater for their academic and social requirements.

Open Mornings

There are several Open Mornings throughout the academic year. These provide the opportunity to visit the school, meet with and talk to the staff, governors and children of the school, to visit classes and participate in the variety of activities taking place.

Visiting the School

We are always delighted to receive visitors to the school. You, with your children, are welcome to see the school at work, and talk to the students and staff. In addition we hope you will enjoy the magnificent grounds within which Gosfield School is set.

Partnership with Parents

We firmly believe that a successful education is based upon very strong and positive relationships with parents. We encourage parents to talk to us about their children whenever necessary and we very much appreciate the support our parents offer. We request that parents and students jointly commit to a 'Home School Partnership' with the school. In addition, we promote our parents to communicate any issues arising to us, should we be unable to resolve them we have grievance procedures in place for both parents and students. We believe our open and honest approach is of support to parents when considering the possibility of private education for their children.

Accommodation

In addition to the 100 acres in which the school is sited, we are very privileged to have tremendous playing fields, recreational grounds and a series of character classrooms, which include:

- A fully equipped modern Sports Hall
- A superb All Weather Sports Surface
- A fully refurbished Science Laboratory
- A modern Art room
- A Home Economics room.
- A Music Suite housing sets of keyboards, drums and many other instruments. In addition there are 3 practice rooms for students to work on their individual skills.
- A Library/resource area housing additional PCs linked to the main school network.
- An Information and Communication Technology (ICT) suite housing 21 PCs linked into the school network.

Classes

Class	Year	Age
Reception	Foundation Year	Rising 5
Infants	Years 1 and 2	Rising 6 and 7
Lower Juniors	Years 3 and 4	Rising 8 and 9
Upper Juniors	Years 5 and 6	Rising 10 and 11
Lower Seniors	Years 7, 8 and 9	Rising 12, 13 and 14
Upper Seniors	Years 10, 11 and 6th Form	Rising 15, 16, 17 and 18

Fees

Fee Structure - Academic Year 2007 – 2008

Tuition fees (Per Term)

Prep School	£	Senior School	£
Reception	1,940	Year 7	3,080
Year 1	2,040	Year 8	3,190
Year 2	2,040	Year 9	3,190
Year 3	2,430	Year 10	3,355
Year 4	2,430	Year 11	3,355
Year 5	2,670	Year 12	3,450
Year 6	2,670	Year 13	3,450

Boarding Fees (Boys only) Sunday - Thursday inclusive

	£
Year 7	4,340
Year 8	4,510
Year 9	4,510
Year 10	4,735
Year 11	4,735
Year 12 & 13	4,890

Optional Development Fund Levy

An optional development fund levy of 5% will be added to all fees invoices. This will be clearly shown and may be deducted if desired. As a not for profit registered charity, the development fund levy is very important to the school and greatly assists us to continue to invest in ongoing developments to ensure that we offer our young people the very best learning environment at all times. The school is able to claim gift aid relief on the development fund levy as they are donations. We thank you in advance for your support.

Occasional Boarding (Boys Only)

Occasional boarding can be booked in advance through the main school office. This offers students the opportunity to join the boarding house for individual nights or weeks throughout the term. Twenty-four hours notice is required.

Monday – Thursday £30 per night

Day Boarding (Boys and Girls)

Day boarding is currently available to all students from Year 5 upwards and can be booked in advance through the main school office. It allows students to remain behind at the end of the normal school day. Students participate in a Prep session from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., tea will be provided at 6.00 p.m. followed by a short break. There is a second Prep session, with day boarding students to be collected by 8.00 p.m. at the latest.

Monday – Thursday £18 per day

Uniform

A full uniform is available from the main school office.

Music Tuition

We have a full complement of peripatetic teachers who teach a broad range of instruments at the school. The cost of these varies minimally and is available through the Music Department.

School Transport

A full list of routes, times and associated costs is available from the main school office.

Trips and Visits

Costs of additional trips and visits will be communicated in advance to parents.

Compulsory Personal Accident Insurance is £6.00 per term.

Sibling Discounts	Reception/Infants	£100 (Per Term)
	Juniors	£120
	Seniors	£140

The third and subsequent children and boarding siblings receive double discount.

School Fees are due no later than the first day of term. Yearly fees paid in advance attract a discount of 3%.

Fees paid by monthly direct debit will incur an administration charge of 3%.

An optional 5% donation to the School's Development Fund is added to all fee invoices

Term Dates

Term Dates 2006/2007

Summer Term 2007

Boarders return: Sunday 22nd April after 5 p.m.

Teaching resumes: Monday 23rd April

Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May

Half term: Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June (incl)

Term ends: Wednesday 11th July (after Awards evening)

Term Dates 2007/2008

Autumn Term 2007

Boarders return: Wednesday 5th September after 5 p.m.

Teaching resumes: Thursday 6th September

Half term: Monday 22ndth October – Friday 2nd November (incl)

Term ends: Wednesday, 12th December (4pm)

Spring Term 2008

Teaching resumes: Monday 7th January

Half term: Monday 11th February – Friday 15th February (incl)

Term ends: Thursday 20th March (4pm)

Summer Term 2008

Teaching resumes: Monday 14th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May (incl)

Term ends: Tuesday 15th July (after awards evening)

The School Day

INFANTS SCHOOL DAY

Registration/Quiet Reading /Assembly	8:35 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
Lesson 1:	9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Lesson 2:	9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Break:	10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Lesson 3:	10:45 a.m. – 11:30 noon
Lesson 4:	11:30 am – 12 noon
Lesson 5:	12 noon – Lunch
Lunch	
Reception	12:15 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Year 1	12:20 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Year 2	12:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Registration	1:40 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Quiet reading	1:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Lesson 6:	2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Children can be supervised up to 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday should parents require

Buses depart	5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday 4:00 p.m. Friday
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JUNIORS SCHOOL DAY

Registration/Quiet Reading /Assembly	8:35 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
Lesson 1:	9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Lesson 2:	9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Break:	10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Lesson 3:	10:45 a.m. – 11:30 noon
Lesson 4:	11:30 am – 12 noon
Lesson 5:	12 noon – Lunch
Lunch	
Lower Juniors	12:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Upper Juniors	12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Registration	1:40 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Quiet reading	1:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Lesson 6:	2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lesson 7:	3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Activities	4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Buses depart	5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday 4:00 p.m. Friday
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SENIORS SCHOOL DAY - Mon Wed Fri

Registration	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Lesson 1:	8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Lesson 2:	9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Lesson 3:	10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Morning Break:	11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Lesson 4:	11:20 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Lesson 5:	12:05 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Lunch	12:50 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Assembly	1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.
Lesson 6:	2:05 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Lesson 7:	2:50 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.
Registration	3:35 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.
Activities	3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Buses depart	5:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday 4:00 p.m. Friday
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SENIORS SCHOOL DAY - Tue Thu pm

Lesson 6:	1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lesson 7:	2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Lesson 8:	3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Including Registration
Activities	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BOARDERS

Weekdays	
7.00 a.m.	Wake Up Call
7.45a.m.	Breakfast
	Mon Wed Fri
Registration	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Lesson 1:	8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Lesson 2:	9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Lesson 3:	10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Morning Break:	11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Lesson 4:	11:20 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Lesson 5:	12:05 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Lunch	12:50 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Assembly	1:45 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.
Lesson 6:	2:05 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Lesson 7:	2:50 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.
Registration	3:35 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.
Activities	3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
	Tue Thu pm
Lesson 6:	1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lesson 7:	2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Lesson 8:	3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Including Registration
Activities	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5.00 p.m.	Boarders Prep
6.00 p.m.	Prep Ends
6.00 p.m.	Tea
7.00 p.m.	Late Prep
8.45 p.m.	Juniors to bed
9.15 p.m.	Lower School to bed
9.45 p.m.	Middle School to bed
10.45 p.m.	Senior School to bed
11.00 p.m.	Prefects & 6th Form to bed

CALENDAR

A termly calendar is issued at the start of each academic term. The current calendar will be enclosed with this prospectus. Key dates are also issued in advance to keep parents aware of future plans. A weekly newsletter also keeps parents aware and involved in the many activities of the school.

Staff of Gosfield School

Principal: Mrs Claire Goodchild, BSc(Hons), Cert Ed, NPQH

Whole School Deputy Head: Mr Peter Harder, Cert Ed, MNASC

Senior Teacher—Senior Curriculum: Dr Damian O'Connor MA

Senior Teacher—Primary Curriculum: Miss Keryn Matehaere B.Ed., Dip.Tchg

Heads of House

Nevill: Mrs Alison Barlow B.Ed (Hons)

Tudor: Mrs Norma Woodcock B.Ed (Hons)

Woodstock: Mrs Deborah Lyne BA (Hons), PGCE

Mrs Nicole Adams BA (Hons) Q.T.S.	Reception Yr Teacher
Mrs Sue Allen, Cert Ed	Infants (Yr 1)
Mrs Alison Barlow B.Ed (Hons)	Upper Juniors (Year 5)
Mrs Nina Blamire BA (Hons), Q.T.S.	Food Technology
Mrs Deborah Bowditch	Learning Support Assistant
Mrs Alison Brett, Cert Ed	Prep School Teacher
Mr James Bush, DIPSE, Cert.Ed.	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, ICT
Mrs Marion Clark, Cert.Ed.	Infants (Yr 2)
Miss Jane Clarke BTEC, NNEB	NNEB
Mrs Rosemary Crane	Learning Support Assistant
Mr Phil Davies BA (Hons) PGCE	English, PE
Ms Maricarmen Diez BA (Hons)	Spanish
Mrs Carole Druett BA (Hons), PGCE	Learning Support/French
Miss Vanessa Giles, BA(Hons), PGCE, RSA Drama Dip	English and Drama
Ms Ana Gil, BA PGCE	Spanish
Mrs Karen Girling	Learning Support Assistant
Mrs Amanda Gwynne BA(Hons),PGCE	Head of Art
Mrs Sarah Holland BSc (Hons), PGCE	Psychology
Mrs Glenda King Cert.Ed.	Lower Juniors (Yr 4)
Mr Graham Leeks BSc, Cert. Ed.	Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics
Miss Corena Ludlow BA (Hons), B.Ed, AST	French
Mrs Deborah Lyne, BA(Hons), PGCE	Upper Juniors (Yr 6)
Mrs Nicola Masterson, NNEB	NNEB
Miss Keryn Matehaere B.Ed., Dip.Tchg	Lower Juniors (Yr 3)
Miss Kate Nankivell B.Soc. Sc (Rec & Humanities Mvt) Grad. Dip. Ed.	PE, Games, PSHE, History
Mrs Gayna O'Rourke BA,DIPTCL, PGCE	Music
Mrs Joanna Philpott, NNEB	Learning Support Assistant
Mr Rob Pilsworth BA (Hons), PGCE	History, ICT
Mrs Heather Selwood BA (Hons), PGCE	Art
Mr Declan Sheehan BA (Hons), Dip. Ed. TEFL	Geography
Mrs Lyn Swystun BSc. (Hons), Cert. Ed.	Mathematics
Mr Alan Taylor, B.Sc. (Hons), PGTC	Biology and IT
Mrs Norma Woodcock, B.Ed. (Hons)	Mathematics

Administration Staff

Mrs Joanna Davenport	Finance Manager
Mrs Susan Swallow	Principal's Secretary
Mrs Sandra Cahill	First Aid Co-ordinator
Mrs Hazel Fenner	Cleaning Supervisor/Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Liane Acres	Technician
Mrs Sara Bowles	Administration
Mrs Linda Holder	Finance
Miss Keryn Matehaere	Boarding Housemistress
Mrs Cathy Jagger	Catering Manager
Mrs Annette Allen	Catering
Mrs Christine Rivers	Catering
Mrs Liz Joslin	Catering
Mrs Vicky Wrench	Catering
Mrs Christine Mahon	Catering
Mrs Veronica Shuttlewood	Catering
Mrs Thelma Ranson	Catering
Mr Peter Evans	Maintenance/School Driver
Mr David Clark	Maintenance/School Driver
Mr David Boatwright	Groundsman
Mr John Marman	Assistant Groundman
Mrs Rebecca Sharman	Cleaner/Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Lyn James	Cleaner
Mrs Jean Clegg	Cleaner
Mr David Scratchard	Cleaner
Little Pickles Nursery	01787 479749

Pastoral & Boarding

Gosfield is a small school and we feel strongly that our students benefit considerably from working with a staff who know each student as an individual. This ensures that they feel secure and confident in their ability to develop both socially and academically.

Our pastoral system is very strong and commences with very experienced Form Teachers in the Senior School and Class Teachers in the Primary School. Great significance is therefore placed upon their role and they are the first point of contact for students and parents. Form Tutors are responsible for the welfare and discipline of their Form Group. The Deputy Head responsible for Pastoral Issues leads the Form Tutors. Students have individual interviews with their Form Tutors at least once a term in order to discuss a variety of issues, including their personal academic progress, target setting and any additional individual needs. All students are actively encouraged to keep a record of their achievements for which a personal file is maintained. Contact with parents is vital to secure the learning triangle; the key to a successful education is a strong partnership between the school and home. You, as parents, are actively encouraged to maintain close contact with your child's form or class teacher and the school. Our door is open, please do talk to us.

There is a house system at the School. All students belong to one of three houses, Nevill, Tudor and Woodstock. Within each house, students take responsibility and work together through a system of Prefects and Heads and Deputy Heads of House. Members of Staff are also allocated to houses and this leads to a strong sense of identity within the school.

All students are expected to take their responsibilities seriously. We encourage students to support each other and ensure a sense of fair play. To support this a student structure offers opportunities to be:

- Prefects in Years 6, 11, 12 and 13
- Sports Captain in Year 12 and 13
- Monitors in Year 10
- Head Boy and Head Girl in Year 12 and 13
- House Captains in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Senior Students participate actively in a mentoring scheme to support, help and guide our younger students.

Our senior prefects undergo a prefect training session at the start of the academic year to develop their leadership skills and empower them with the confidence to take their role appropriately. As prefects they hold certain privileges such as access to their own study area and common room. In addition prefects wear a suit rather than school uniform in order to identify them as young people with additional responsibility.

We do expect a high standard of work and behaviour from our students. We expect them to become responsible and mature young people who are able to live within the community with ease.

New Students

We have an extensive induction programme for the new students joining us in particular at the start of Reception and Year 7. Although many of our students move up from Year 6 we feel it is still important to recognise that they are moving into the Senior School and that they will be joined by new students to the school. The induction process is proactive in ensuring students gradually familiarise themselves with the new school and its procedures and subsequently happily integrate into the school routine.

The transition from Nursery School to full time school is very important and the induction procedure is designed to ensure all the children settle in quickly to Gosfield. Prospective students visit us for a trial day and spend the time with their year group and undergo assessments in core areas. Students are invited to a new pupil day towards the end of the Summer Term. This provides the opportunity for the new Year 7 or Reception to spend the day with their new group, meet their teachers and Form Teacher. At the end of this day there is the opportunity for parents to join their children and talk to the form teacher and or subject staff about any relevant issues. For children joining us at different times within their educational career, great care is taken to ensure they settle into the school and feel secure within their new environment.

Boarding

The boarding house at Gosfield is unique. It provides a superb environment for Senior boys to work and play in. The family atmosphere combined with the comfortably furnished bedrooms ensures all the boarders receive an exceptional level of care. The boys have access to one of the largest back gardens available!

They are looked after by their houseparents who live within the boarding house and are on call at all times.

Boarding is also available on a flexible basis:

- Students may stay overnight during the week in order to take part in additional activities organised or to take advantage of further study opportunities.
- Students may also participate in day boarding, allowing them the opportunity to remain at the end of the day, participate in the Prep sessions, have their tea and then go home.

Students within the boarding house are encouraged to take on responsibilities and they have their own prefect system.

Curriculum

A young person educated at Gosfield School will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant to individual needs. We offer the National Curriculum and a great deal more. We ensure our curriculum:

- Cultivates the habit of work and pride in achievement.
- Enables a high self-esteem with regard to social and academic achievements.
- Leads to a moral sense of responsibility for themselves and others, sound and courteous manners and the ability to be respectful of other people and their curriculum.
- Develops an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of Citizenship.
- Provides opportunities to access cultural activities.
- Enables effective communication through Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- Leads to appropriate Academic Qualifications.

We recognise that all students are individuals with a variety of strengths and develop at different speeds revealing their promise at varying stages. The manner in which the curriculum is presented allows the flexibility to work within these individual requirements. Students are monitored carefully throughout each academic year and their career at Gosfield School. There will be regular opportunities for students and their parents to review their personal progress and to consider the next stages in their development.

The staff at Gosfield ensure that this balanced curriculum leads to a good education. Our teachers are well qualified and very dedicated, ensuring students feel happy and secure whilst at the same time fully challenged in their learning.

The curriculum is reviewed each year as we continually strive to improve our faculties to ensure our students are provided with the best possible learning environment.

School Council

The school council was set up and is currently run by the students themselves. Each year group has two representatives, voted on by their peer group. They meet regularly and put forward their views. They also get fully involved in supporting the charity work of the school.

Curriculum in Action

Our Curriculum provides for the following subjects:

English, including English Literature and English Language;
Mathematics, including Pure Maths, Statistics and Mechanics;
Science, including Biology, Chemistry and Physics;
Art, Drama and Music;
Business Studies, History and Geography;
French, German and Spanish;
Home Economics and Food Technology;
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Physical Education, Games and Sports Science;
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE);
Psychology
General Studies.

Infant School Subjects Reception and Years 1 and 2

English, Maths and Science;
Art & Craft, Drama and Music;
Topics including:
Geography and History;
Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
Religious Education;
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE);
Physical Education and Games.

Junior School Subjects Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Key Stage 2

English, Maths and Science;
Art & Craft, Drama and Music;
Topics including: Geography and History;
French; Home Economics;
Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
Religious Education;
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE);
Physical Education and Games.
Verbal Reasoning

Curriculum

Senior School Subjects Years 7, 8 and 9 Key Stage 3

English, Maths and Science;
Art, Drama and Music;
Topics including: Geography and History;
French and Spanish;
Home Economics;
Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
Religious Education;
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE);
Physical Education and Games.

Senior School Subjects Years 10 and 11 Key Stage 4 : GCSE Courses

All Students follow GCSE courses in

English Language
English Literature
Government and Politics
Mathematics
Science either a double award
Or
Biology, Chemistry and Physics

In addition each student selects 4 from the list below:

Art
Business Studies
Drama
Food Technology
French
Geography
German
History
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)
Music
Spanish
Sports Science

Students also participate in

Careers Education
Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE);
Physical Education & Games

Senior School Subjects Years 12 and 13 Sixth Form : A/AS Level and GCSE Courses

Students may follow courses of up to 5 AS/A levels
or 10 GCSEs or a combination to suit
their particular strengths
and requirements.

*They may choose from the
following subjects:*

English Literature
English Language
Mathematics
Pure Mathematics
Mechanics
Statistics
Science: double award*
Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Drama*
History
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)
Food Technology
French
General Studies
Geography
German
Psychology
Sociology
Physics
Spanish
Sports Science

Students also participate in

Careers Education
Physical Education & Games

* these subjects are
currently only available as GCSE courses

Curriculum

Reception (Foundation Stage)

This is a child's first experience of school and as such is important for laying solid foundations for their future education. Children follow the pattern of an integrated day with a range of activities to promote all areas of their development – social, physical, creative as well as academic. Children are challenged in all these areas whilst being supported and closely monitored by the classroom staff. As they are ready, children are introduced to literacy and numeracy skills, which are developed at an individual pace. Children have the opportunity of swimming lessons once they are settled into school life.

Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1)

The primary focus for Key Stage 1 is to develop literacy and numeracy skills to a high standard. Daily Number and English lessons take place covering all the key areas of these subjects. During this stage, children begin to learn multiplication tables and are required to learn specific spellings. Handwriting is taught formally on a daily basis. Science, History, Geography and Art are taught primarily through a topic basis with the rotation of topics across the Key Stage ensuring good coverage of the National Curriculum requirements. Children also participate in Music and Physical Education lessons. All our children have swimming lessons until they achieve their 50-metre distance certificate.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Key Stage 2)

A clear focus remains on literacy and numeracy skills in this Key Stage and children are grouped within their classes in order to develop their specific needs. There is also a key focus on encouraging children to become independent learners. The children are introduced to French and Home Economics as additions to their curriculum. Science and ICT are taught as discrete subjects at this stage. History, Geography and Art continue to be taught predominantly through a topic approach.

Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3)

Years 7, 8 and 9 are each taught as an entire group for all of their subjects. The work in each subject is designed to ensure that every student has the opportunity to progress at a rate which matches their ability whilst challenging them to extend their understanding further. All students also follow an ICT skills course leading to nationally recognised certificates. Personal, Social and Health Education is also compulsory.

Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)

Students in Years 10 and 11 all follow the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science at examination level. In addition they choose 4 optional subjects. The selection of these subjects is made in consultation with students, staff and parents, to ensure breadth and balance is maintained and also to ensure students maximise the opportunities available to them, whilst providing a degree of specialism to allow them to gear their education towards their individual futures. ICT is no longer compulsory, although it can be taken to examination level, however ICT is used as a tool for learning across the curriculum. A great deal of emphasis is placed upon preparing our young people for life in the adult world; Personal, Social and Health Education including Careers, work experience and citizenship are also compulsory.

The Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)

Our Sixth Form is small with a very traditional atmosphere.

The young adults are allowed to wear a suit of their own to replace the school uniform. All the Sixth Form students are expected to be Prefects from whom a Head Boy and Head Girl are elected, as well as Sports Captain and Vice Sports Captain.

All the Sixth Formers are expected to take on a variety of responsibilities including:

- Supervision duties at break and lunch time
- Listening to younger students reading
- Supporting younger students with their studies
- Showing visitors around the school
- Participating in open days and school functions
- Leading the school council named the 'House of Representatives'

There is a private study area for the Sixth Form, each student having his or her own private study booth. In addition they have an ICT area of their own, with computers linked into the school network.

A separate prospectus is available for the Sixth Form.

Curriculum

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The school is provided with a new ICT suite of networked computers. These are linked into other ICT sites within the school, in particular, the Library and the Sixth Form Study Centre. All the computers are of a suitably high specification to allow the highest level of software to be used.

The computers are available for discrete lessons and for use as part of the broader curriculum. The network is connected to the Internet for general Curriculum purposes, with students having scrutinised access. Students also have access to, and are able to use, the e-mail service. To protect our young people, we have an ICT users policy in place. This is to ensure that our young people are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to the use of computers and that we have sufficient procedures in place to monitor their appropriate use of the technology available.

All students, as part of the ICT curriculum, will follow a course leading to a qualification in ICT by the end of Year 9. As such they will develop skills such as touch-typing, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Web Page Design, Power Point presentations, Databases and the use of the Internet.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

We hold assemblies at least three times each week; in the Primary School the students meet every day. Our assemblies are generally of a Christian nature and support many spiritual and moral dimensions of life. Local spiritual leaders are invited to the school on a regular basis to participate in our assemblies. Students also follow Religious Education as a compulsory subject from Year 1 To Year 9, after which Religious Education becomes an optional GCSE subject and a part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme followed in Years 10 and 11. The Education Act allows parents who so wish to withdraw their children on religious grounds from all or part of the Religious Education or collective worship provided.

Art, Music and Drama

Creative Arts, in the form of Art, Music and Drama, form a very important part of the provision at Gosfield School. All students from Foundation level to Year 9 participate in lessons in all three areas, after which all three are options at examination level.

Visits to museums and galleries actively promote the programme of study and complement studies within the classroom. In addition, regular trips to the theatre are undertaken.

Our students play a variety of instruments within their music lessons including the keyboard. We also offer additional tuition for many other musical instruments including the violin, drums and piano.

Our students are always enthusiastic about performing in front of their peers and the local community as they prepare for the productions that take place throughout the year. The Primary School perform in their Christmas play entertaining audiences with their confidence and talent. The spring term sees the senior production in which students from ages 4 to 18 participate.

Homework

Great emphasis is placed upon the quality of the teaching in the classroom. However, regular independent learning at home is a vital part of a young person's development both academically and socially. It consolidates the work done in the classroom, opens up other areas of study and encourages children to develop habits of self-organisation and self-discipline. The quantity of work increases as students progress through the school. Parents' contribution toward supporting the homework procedure is crucial in order to further develop the child as a whole.

Homework timetables are issued at the beginning of the academic year and each subject will set tasks on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of the students to enter the details into their Student Diary. We do ask parents to check and sign the diary at least once each week, this will ensure parents are aware of what is being expected of their son or daughter and provide the opportunity to comment as appropriate.

Our full Homework policy is available from the school.

Curriculum

Special Educational Needs

We recognise that all students have their particular needs and it is therefore our aim to meet with them all. Certain students may have particular needs in specific areas. We are able to offer certain additional support for these children whilst ensuring that this works within the school's pastoral and academic structures to ensure a consistent whole school approach to meeting our young people's needs.

Extension Programme

We have a full and varied extension programme organised by the school's Curriculum Co-ordinator. Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of cultural activities and to visit key landmarks which develop their wider understanding of the culture within which they reside. Copies of this programme are available from the school.

Careers Education

It is our aim to ensure that through suitable provision of a Careers programme all students leave as well rounded young adults who are ready either to move into the world of work, or to take advantage of the opportunities available in Further or Higher Education.

Careers Education not only identifies possibilities for the future but also helps prepare our young people for the world of work and to undertake the role of a responsible citizen, thus supporting the development of the whole person.

An individualised Careers Programme is undertaken. Students all have careers interviews with external advisors. Careers information is fully available within the Library resources of the school. In addition students have access to Kudos, an up to date software package that enables students to consider an enormous range of possibilities for their future in line with their personal strengths and interests. Our Careers Co-ordinator provides support to each student and with tutors and the PSHE programme ensures that our young people are ready to take positive steps as they depart from Gosfield School.

All students undergo a one-week work experience placement in Year 11. Students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to experience areas of interest with individualised programmes.

Our head of Sixth Form co-ordinates the University applications process.

We have external links with Connexions who support and complement the school programme.

Sex Education

Sex Education is an important dimension of the School Curriculum. Moral and Social aspects are covered within the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme, which is delivered by experienced members of staff. The Science Subject Area delivers the biological facts as a component of their schemes of work. At all times the materials and teaching are carefully monitored and assessed to ensure they are appropriate to the needs and ages of the students, and are in accordance with the school's Sex Education Policy document which has been approved by the School Council.

Students will study aspects of sex and family education as part of their science and PSHE programme. We are concerned to ensure we meet our obligation to our young people, whilst stressing the need for sensitivity and moral guidance. Hence the teaching of this type of education takes careful account of the age and maturity of the students who will, at all times, be encouraged to reflect on appropriate emotional and ethical dimensions.

Examinations, Assessment & Reporting

Internal Examinations

All students sit internal school examinations twice a year, the results of which are reported to parents either within the main school report or on an Examination Grade Card.

External Examinations

The following external examinations are compulsory within the school:

Baseline Assessments	Reception
Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Tests	Year 2
Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests	Year 6
Key Stage 3 National Curriculum Tests	Year 9
GCSE Examinations	Year 11
AS/A Level Examinations	Year 12 and 13

The 11+ examination is not compulsory but the school supports students and parents who wish to take the examination.

In addition, all students will at some stage sit a diagnostic test, which enables us to ensure students are being expected to achieve their full potential.

Value Added

Value added is a term that is becoming more commonly used in the educational field. It is far more informative than a percentage outcome. At Gosfield we believe that any student who achieves in excess of their predictions has made tremendous progress. This is known as value added progress. We monitor all our students to ensure that they do achieve in line with, or above expectations, whether the grades they achieve be a grade A* or a grade D, at the end of Year 11 or a Level 4 or 5 at the end of Year 6.

Assessment

Assessing the young people within our school is vital to ensure they are progressing appropriately and meeting the high expectations set.

Students' work is marked and assessed on a regular basis in line with the Whole School Policy on Assessment, Marking and Recording.

Reporting

All students currently receive each academic year:

- Two full school reports
- One Interim Grade Card
- One Examination Grade Card (for Years 6, 9 and 11)
- One Parents Consultation Evening (Two for the Primary School)

Sport & Activities

Sport

All children are given the opportunity to participate and compete in a wide range of sports. It is hoped that they will maintain an active interest in sport as they leave the educational environment.

Each student receives one Physical Education lesson and two Games lessons each week.

The Sporting facilities are very good. The extensive 100 acre grounds and all-weather sports surface are used for football, hockey, rugby, athletics, cricket, tennis, cross country, orienteering and a variety of camp craft activities. Indoor facilities are housed in the impressive sports hall, which boasts a sports science classroom and modern equipment for a full and varied range of sports.

Pupils have the opportunity to play a range of sport competitively for the school in local and national competitions, local leagues and friendly matches.

Throughout their school career with us, students will have the opportunity to participate in athletics, aerobics, football, badminton, cross country, basketball, cricket, gymnastics, netball, rounders, health related fitness, rugby, tennis, indoor bowls, softball, golf and volleyball. Local facilities are also used to complement our own, such as a fitness centre and swimming pool, where the Primary School Students aim to achieve the minimum of the 50 metre badge.

Extra Curricular Activities

Throughout the year some 40 clubs and societies thrive after school Monday to Thursday. There is something for everyone, sports, arts & crafts, music, dance & drama, outdoor pursuits, hobbies & leisure pastimes. A list of the clubs and societies is available from the school.

Activities Week

Gosfield School is committed to incorporating educational, cultural and adventurous visits into its schemes of work. An Activities Week in the summer term is organised to co-ordinate a series of such visits. Many students have now sampled a wealth of new cultural and challenging experiences. Our close proximity to the East Coast, London and Cambridge provide us with many places of interest. Groups travel further afield in the UK and around Europe. Whether it is a seaside survey, outdoor pursuits in Wales, the opera in Verona or white water rafting in the Alps, Activities Week is regarded as an important feature of a students' full and rounded education.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

A number of our students aged 14+ take on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It introduces our young people to exciting, stimulating, positive and enjoyable things to do in their free time. A member of the County Award Office visits the school weekly to co-ordinate the activities.

Charities

As a school we believe firmly in supporting those who are less fortunate than ourselves. To that end we support a variety of charities throughout the year.

Speech Day

Speech Day is our opportunity to celebrate the students' successes through the year. The event is held in a marquee set up in the Sports Hall. All our students are expected to join us for this event, in addition parents as well as members of the local community are invited to join us for this special day.

General Information

Code of Conduct

The students at Gosfield are well disciplined. They take personal responsibility for their own behaviour and are therefore a credit to the school. We believe strongly that this should remain the situation. We ask parents to support us fully in all aspects of discipline.

Discipline within the school is firm and friendly, based upon respect. We believe that children will respond to a positive approach of encouragement, praise and rewards. Great importance is attached to high standards of conduct and the formation of good character. Students are expected to respect their own property and that of other people.

All rewards and sanctions will be in adherence with the school's Code of Conduct.

Rewards and Sanctions

Celebrating success is essential and students are encouraged to work towards achieving the rewards available for effort, academic progress, personal achievement and consideration for others needs. A merit system operates throughout the school to support this. Where difficulties arise there is a sanction procedure with which all students are familiar.

A whole School Code of Conduct is available on request and will be issued to all new students and parents.

Child Protection

Children really do come first at Gosfield School; we therefore have a Child Protection Policy, which falls in line with legislation. Copies of the document can be seen at the school.

First Aid

If your child is unwell at school we have a medical area and a fully trained First Aider on duty throughout the day. When deemed necessary you will be contacted so that arrangements can be made for them to go home. We ask parents to provide the school with some basic details relating to their son/daughter's medical background in confidence, so that we can ensure that their needs are met.

Uniform

School uniform is an essential part of the ethos of the school. A superb appearance enhances positive attitudes, high personal standards and a sense of personal pride. Our students are commended for their appearance within the community.

It is considered that, as part of the student's uniform, they always have the correct equipment with them for the day in a bag suitable for the purpose.

All uniform items specific to Gosfield are available from the Uniform Shop here at School.

A full list of the items of uniform required is available at school and is provided to all new parents.

The Sixth Form is exempt from the uniform rules, although they are expected to conform to the code of conduct presented in their handbook.

Hair and Jewellery

The girls may wear one pair of small ear rings. In addition, all students from Year 10 upwards may wear one plain ring. A plain wristwatch may be worn by all students. In the Primary School watches must be named. No other items of jewellery may be worn.

Girls wearing their hair below shoulder length should wear their hair tied back with plain green or black hair tie and clips. Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.

Make-up

Make-up is not permitted throughout the school.

Governance & Friends of Gosfield School

Governance

The Articles of Association of Gosfield School allow for the Governing Council of Gosfield School to comprise up to 20 members. Membership for the 2005/06 school year is as follows:

Peter Sakal – Chair of Governors; Nick Pavver – Vice Chair; Brian Woodcock – Chair of Personnel Committee; Marcel Horst – Chair of Premises Committee; Joanna Davenport – Chair of Health & Safety Committee; Ruth Gray; Anne Young; Tom Dale; Duncan McCubbine; Alison Doyle; Daniel Philpott; Claire Goodchild – Principal; Sue Allen – Teachers' Representative; Damian O'Connor – Teachers' Representative; Vivien Platfoot – Parent Governor; Sarah Brudenell – Parent Governor.

The Governing Council meets at least once each term and its responsibility is strategic planning and to enable the best facilities and environment to be available for the education of the children of the school.

There are six Standing Committees tasked with specific responsibilities. They are the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Premises Committee, Health & Safety Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Curriculum Committee.

Each Standing Committee meets several times in a school year or as often as necessary. The Governing Council and Standing Committees are elected and re-elected annually in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association of Gosfield School, a copy of which can be obtained from the Finance office.

Friends of Gosfield School

Friends of Gosfield School (FOGS) is our version of a Parent Teacher Association! This strong group of parents, teachers and friends work extremely hard to raise funds to enhance the facilities for the children attending the School.

They have provided and helped to provide an enormous number of extra resources to be used by the students at school. Some £60,000 has been raised during the last four school years and some of the projects funded by FOGS include a network of PCs for the primary school, digital video equipment and cameras, classroom TVs and VCRs, an ICT room projector, Primary School play equipment and climbing frame, sports equipment and camping equipment for The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

There is a great social dimension to FOGS and parents, teachers and students alike enjoy participating in many of the social events organised by the group. These include: the Grand Summer Fayre, Fireworks Display, Christmas Ball, Auction of Promises and the popular Mouse Race Evening.

Additionally, FOGS supports two local charities each year. The current designated charities are the Essex Air Ambulance and the Edith Borthwick School for the disabled who have received substantial donations from FOGS fundraising.

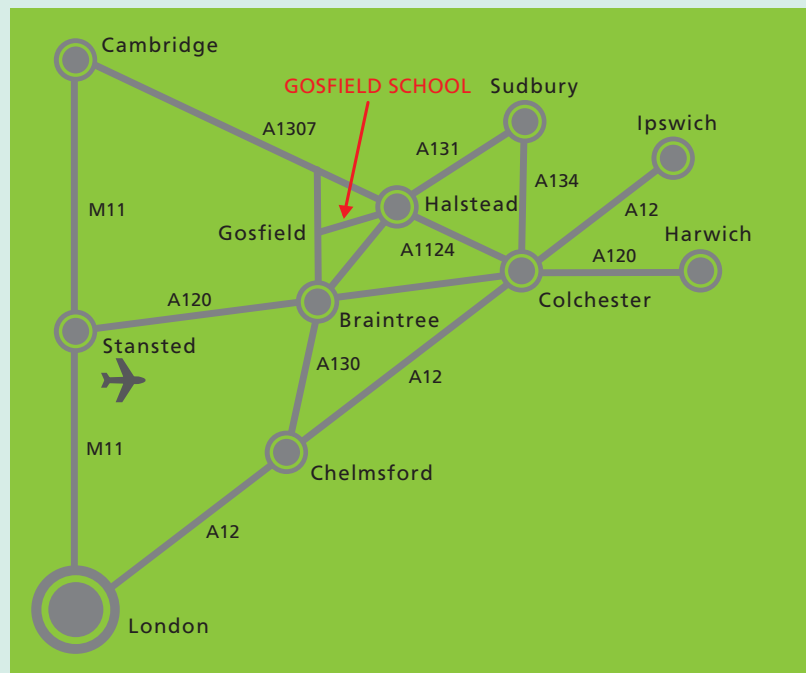
Directions

Gosfield School, Cut Hedge Park, Halstead Road, Gosfield, Halstead, Essex CO9 1PF
Tel: 01787 474040 Fax: 01787 478228 Email: principal@gosfieldschool.org.uk

Gosfield School is situated 1 km North-East of Gosfield village on the Halstead Road which links Gosfield with the town of Halstead.

Travelling by car the school is approximately:

15 minutes from Braintree,
5 minutes from Halstead,
40 minutes from Cambridge,
25 minutes from Colchester,
25 minutes from Chelmsford
and 40 minutes from the M11 at Stansted.



From Cambridge

take the A1307 through Sible Hedingham, and keep straight on when the A1307 turns left for Halstead. After approximately 2 miles take the A131. Enter Gosfield Village and the Halstead Road is the first on the left. Gosfield School is half a mile along on the left hand side.

From Sudbury

Take the A131 into Halstead, go down the High Street, follow the road round, taking the second right (Chapel Hill; Holy Trinity Church stands on the corner). Gosfield School is just over a mile along this road on the right.

From Colchester

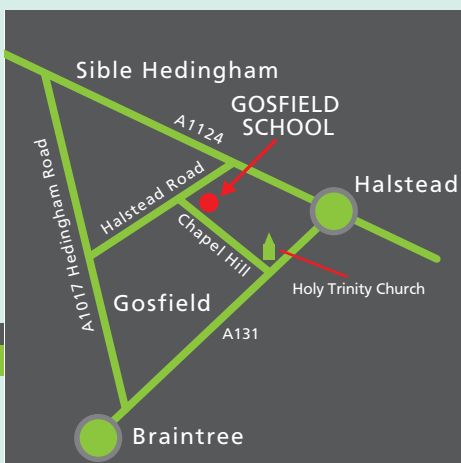
Take the A1124 to Halstead, go down the High Street, follow the road round, taking the second right (Chapel Hill; Holy Trinity Church stands on the corner). Gosfield School is just over a mile along this road on the right.

From Chelmsford

Head for the Braintree by-pass then follow the signs for Cambridge. This will bring you into Gosfield Village. Drive through the village and take the first right about 150 yards past the Kings Head. This is Halstead Road.

From Stansted Airport

Take the A120 exit to Braintree then follow the signs for Cambridge. This will bring you into Gosfield Village. Drive through the village and take the first right about 150 yards past the Kings Head. This is Halstead Road.



Gosfield School
Cut Hedge Park, Halstead Road,
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Where Children Come First